

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Application No.: 10/631,810

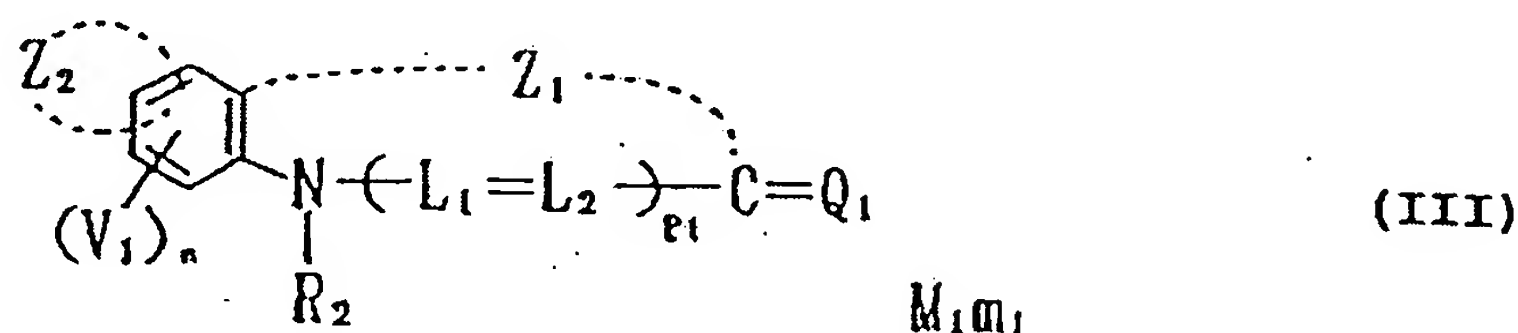
Atty Docket No.: Q76527

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

#### LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (currently amended): A compound represented by formula (III):



wherein  $Z_1$  represents an atomic group necessary to form thiazole;  $Z_2$  represents an atomic group selected from the group consisting of a furan ring, and a thiophene ring which has a condensed ring to form a tetracyclic ring system, ~~a pyrrole ring, a pyrazole ring, an isooxazole ring, an isothiazole ring and an imidazole ring~~;  $R_2$  represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group;  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  each represents a methine group;  $p_1$  represents 0;  $V_1$  represents a substituent;  $Q_1$  represents a methine group or a polymethine group necessary to form a methine dye;  $M_1$  represents an electric charge balancing counter ion; and  $m_1$  represents a number of from 0 to 10 necessary to neutralize the electric charge of the molecule; and  $n$  represents 0, 1 or 2, and when  $n$  represents 2, a plurality of  $V_1$  may be the same or different.

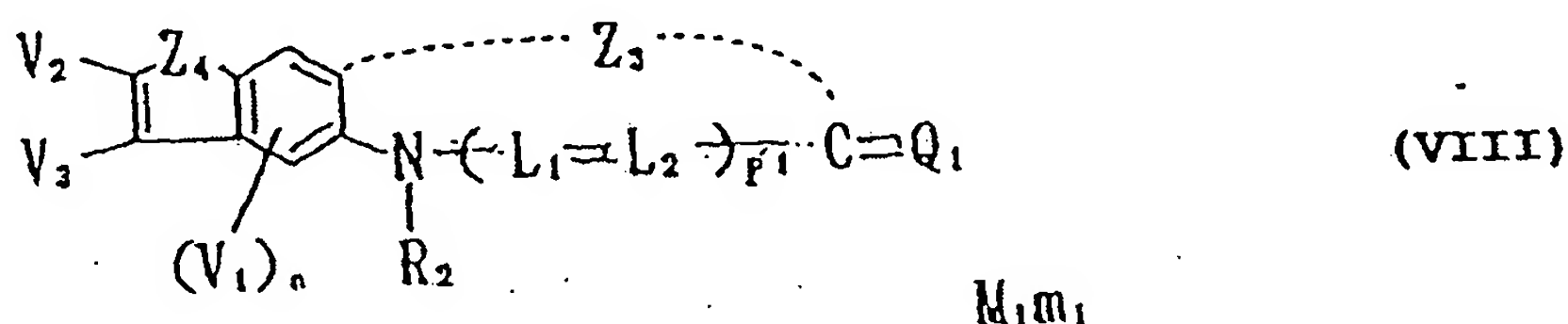
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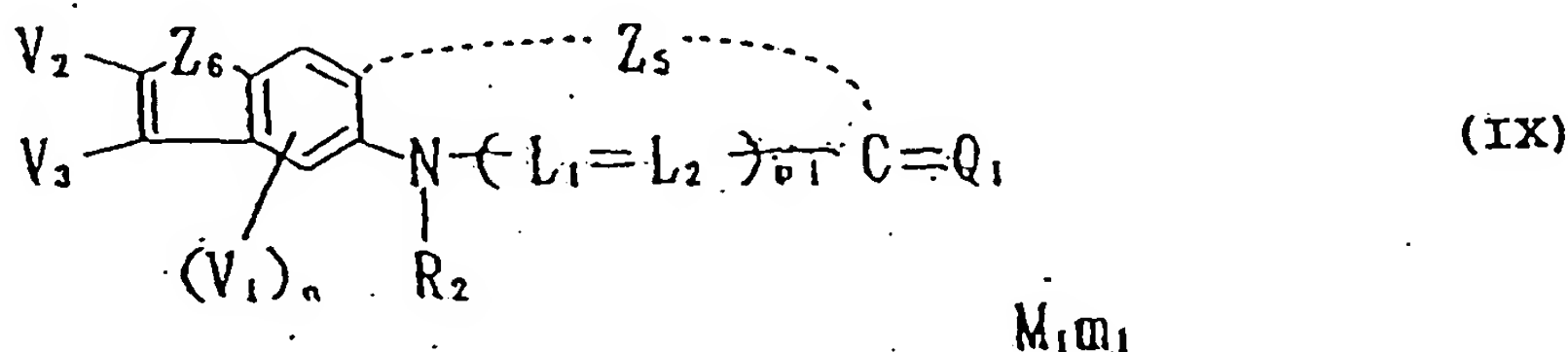
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Claim 2. (currently amended): The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein the selected atomic group for Z<sub>2</sub> represents ~~is a furan ring, a thiophene ring or a pyrrole ring.~~

Claim 3. (currently amended): The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein the compound represented by formula (III) is represented by formula (VIII) or (IX):



wherein Z<sub>4</sub> represents an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom; Z<sub>3</sub> represents an atomic group necessary to form thiazole, L<sub>1</sub>, L<sub>2</sub>, p<sub>1</sub>, V<sub>1</sub>, n, R<sub>2</sub>, Q<sub>1</sub>, M<sub>1</sub>, and m<sub>1</sub> each has the same meaning as described in formula (III); and V<sub>2</sub> and V<sub>3</sub> each represents a substituent, ~~or~~ and V<sub>2</sub> and V<sub>3</sub> may form a condensed ring containing V<sub>2</sub> and V<sub>3</sub>;



wherein Z<sub>6</sub> represents N-R<sub>3</sub>; Z<sub>5</sub> represents an atomic group necessary to form thiazole; R<sub>3</sub> represents a hydrogen atom or a substituent; L<sub>1</sub>, L<sub>2</sub>, p<sub>1</sub>, V<sub>1</sub>, n, R<sub>2</sub>, Q<sub>1</sub>, M<sub>1</sub>, and m<sub>1</sub> each has the

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same meaning as described in formula (III); and  $V_2$  and  $V_3$  each has the same meaning as described in formula (VIII).

Claim 4. (original): The compound as claimed in claim 3, wherein  $R_2$  represents an alkyl group having an aryl group as a substituent or an aryl group.

Claim 5. (original): The compound as claimed in claim 3, wherein at least one substituent represented by  $V_1$  is a group having at least one dissociable group which has a dissociable proton and has a negative charge at proton dissociation or which forms a salt with a counter cation in the form of an anion.

Claim 6. (currently amended): The compound as claimed in claim 3, wherein at least one substituent represented by  $V_2$  or  $V_3$  in formula (VIII) ~~or formula (IX)~~ is a group having at least one dissociable group which has a dissociable proton and has a negative charge at proton dissociation or which forms a salt with a counter cation in the form of an anion.

Claim 7. (original): The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein  $R_2$  represents an alkyl group having an aryl group as a substituent or an aryl group.

Claim 8. (original): The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one substituent represented by  $V_1$  is a group having at least one dissociable group which has a dissociable proton and has a negative charge at proton dissociation or which forms a salt with a counter cation in the form of an anion.